



Warren R. Silva



MIKE LAW

80227/3393



Info removed by VNCA

DEAR MIKE,

THIS IS WRITTEN IN RESPONSE TO YOUR COLUMN IN THE SEP/OCT VHPA NEWSLETTER IN WHICH YOU WERE DISCUSSING YOUR PLANS FOR THE '98 DIRECTORY.

ENCLOSED W/THIS LETTER IS AN ARTICLE ON THE 222^D AVN BN AND ITS COMPANIES. THE 195TH AHC WAS BASED AT PLANTATION DURING MY SECOND TOUR (MAY '69-MAY '70). THEIR A/C WERE WERE PAINTED W/ A CAMOUFLAGED PAINT JOB. ALTHOUGH I HAD SEEN A GROUP OF BLACK OV-1'S DURING THIS TOUR THESE WERE THE ONLY ARMY A/C I SAW WITH A "CAMI" PAINT JOB. THE REASON FOR THIS WAS THE FACT THAT THEY WERE CONSTANTLY GOING "OVER THE FENCE" ON CLASSIFIED MISSIONS INTO CAMBODIA. THE PICTURE IN THE ARTICLE IDENTIFIED AS: "SHIPS OF THE 240TH AHC AWAIT FURTHER ORDERS" ARE ACTUALLY A/C OF THE 195TH THAT ARE STAGING OFF A STRIP AT THE BU DOP SPECIAL FORCES CAMP. THE 195TH KEPT A PAIR OF GUN SHIPS AND TWO OR THREE "SLICKS" UP THERE ALL THE TIME, SWITCHING AIR CRAFT AND CREWS EVERY TWO WEEKS. THEY WORKED MAINLY DEEP INSERTIONS AND PICK-UP OF LRP'S, SPECIAL FORCES, "NUNGS" AND OTHER CLANDISTINE PEOPLE & THINGS.

THE GUY THAT COULD PROVIDE W/IN-DEPTH INFO ON THIS UNIT AND ITS MISSIONS IS CARY WILLIAMS. CARY IS A RETIRED O-6 WHO WAS THE 195TH COMPANY COMMANDER DURING THE SAME PERIOD IN '69-'70 THAT I WAS COMMANDING THE 273^D HUYNH CO. HE AND I FLEW TOGETHER W/ B CO, 1ST AVN BN DURING OUR FIRST TOUR IN '66-'67 SO WERE

FRIENDLY DURING THIS SECOND TRIP OVER,
ESPECIALLY WHILE COMMANDING COMPANIES IN
THE SAME BATTALION. CARY IS PRESENTLY
A CPA LIVING AT [REDACTED].
I'M SURE IF YOU CONTACTED HIM HE COULD FILL
YOU IN ON ALL THE EXACT DETAILS OF THE
OUT-OF-COUNTRY MISSIONS HIS COMPANY WAS
INVOLVED IN.

I HOPE THIS MIGHT PUT YOU ON THE TRAIL
OF SOMETHING THAT HAS RECEIVED VERY
LITTLE NOTICE OVER THE YEARS.

SINCERELY,

Warren

WARREN R. SILVA
"SUPER Hook 6"

CARY WILLIAMS
[REDACTED]

HAWK MAGAZINE salutes

222d Aviation Battalion (Cbt)



The 222d Aviation Battalion was organized February 1966, in Vung Tau as a fixed-wing aviation battalion. In November 1968, the "Skymasters" moved their headquarters to the present location just east of Long Binh.

In the four years of its existence the Skymasters have made the transition from a fixed-wing battalion to a rotary-wing unit comprised of three assault helicopter companies operating throughout III Corps and one Skycrane company operating in II, III, and IV Corps.

The 117th AHC, stationed at Plantation, is one of the few units in Vietnam that flies the night "Firefly" mission. The 117th ships also have infrared capabilities enabling them to take the war to the enemy in his own element: the night. The 117th AHC is also instrumental in night rescue missions.

The 195th, with headquarters at Plantation, is the only AHC operating in Vietnam with camouflaged helicopters. One of the company's primary missions is the support of long range patrol teams.

The 240th AHC was one of the first helicopter companies to work with the Thais. The company continues to work closely with the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Force flying daily missions with Thai personnel.

The 273d "Superhooks," stationed in Long Binh, is one of three Skycrane companies in Vietnam and was the first to fly 10,000 hours. The men of the 273d accomplished this feat in less than 20 months.

The crest of the 222d, three wings arranged in the form of a rotor, is symbolic of the battalion's transition from a fixed to a rotary-wing unit.

**The 222d CAB Continues To Be
Among Most Versatile In RVN**

"Special Missions Battalion"

**Story by
SP5 John C. Stewart**

Even during the early stages of the Vietnam conflict, people began to notice the contributions being made by Army Aviation and specifically its helicopters. The use of massively armed gunships, troop-carrying slicks, and larger ships such as the Chinook and the Sky-crane, soon became an everyday occurrence.

Each aviation battalion serving in Vietnam has added its own colorful page to the history of Army Aviation and each has had its distinctive missions to accomplish. One of the best known battalions in Vietnam, and also one of the most versatile, is the 222d Aviation Battalion (Combat).

Since its arrival in Vietnam early in 1966, the "Skymasters" have made a transition from a battalion composed of fixed-wing aircraft such as the "Caribu," "Otter," and "Mohawk," to a rotary-wing battalion composed of UH-1H's UH-1C's and the most powerful of all, the CH-54 Skycrane.

Few aviation battalions in Vietnam could surpass the versatility and accomplishments of the Skymasters. LTC Gerald M. Okarski, Commanding Officer of the 222d Aviation Battalion, calls his unit the "Special Missions Battalion" and its record proves him correct.

The Battalion is composed of

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three assault helicopter companies, a Skycrane company and a headquarters company. Three companies, the 117th Aviation Company (Aslt Hel), the 195th Aviation Company (Aslt Hel) and the 273d Aviation Company (Hvy Hel) are located in Long Binh and nearby Plantation.

For the six-month period from June to November 1969, the Sky-masters logged over 22,000 hours flying time, flew 166,000 sorties, killed 432 enemy and hauled over 219,000 troops.

One of the most newsworthy achievements of the battalion occurred early in January when it was picked to be the host aviation battalion in an agreement involving the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Forces and the 1st Aviation Brigade. Titled a "Memorandum of Understanding," the agreement allows qualified Thai pilots to fly with American pilots from the 195th and 240th Aviation Companies while working missions in support of Thai troops.

The Skycranes of the 273d Aviation Company, commanded by MAJ R. Silva, can be seen flying overhead everyday of the week throughout Vietnam. These massive ships and the records that they have set have earned them an admirable reputation.

The 273d is one of the most expensive company-size units in the Army and is also the largest of the three "Crane" companies serving in Vietnam. Its CH-54's represent an investment of \$40 million but the investment has proven worthwhile. In 25 months since it has been in Vietnam, the 273d has been responsible for the recovery of over \$120 million worth of aircraft, to say nothing of the supplies they have transported.

*Photos by
SP5 Stewart
and
SP5 Martinaitis*



Ships of the ^{195TH}~~240th~~ AHC await further orders.

Three Thai LRPs leave chopper on an insertion.

